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## Nixon's Controversial Decision on Israeli Nuclear Weapons

Tue 4:05 pm +00:00, 22 Apr 2025

posted by Tap Admin



IMAGE: 1969, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir and IAF Commander Maj. Gen. Mordechai Hod awaiting the arrival of the initial four F-4 Phantom aircraft at the Air Traffic Control Tower of Hatzor Airbase (Source: Israeli Air Force)

It is thought that Israel progressively developed its nuclear program throughout the 1950s and 1960s, likely attaining the ability to produce nuclear weapons around 1967. The Israeli government has consistently maintained a policy of secrecy regarding its nuclear activities, adopting a position of nuclear ambiguity. Estimates indicate that Israel has between 90 and 200 nuclear warheads. Although Israel has never officially conducted a nuclear test, many scholars believe that clandestine tests took place in areas such as Algeria and French Polynesia, not to mention the infamous Vela incident in the South Atlantic.

During the summer of 1969, the Nixon administration focused on determining the appropriate course of action regarding the troubling Israeli nuclear weapons program. National Security Study Memorandum 40 mandated interagency analyses and proposals on this matter, culminating in the declassified 1969 memorandum from Henry Kissinger to President Nixon, concerning the Israeli Nuclear Program, which reflected the outcomes of these discussions and investigations.

Klssinger Memo to Nixon Israel Nuclear Programme

DOCUMENT: June 7, 1969 Memorandum from Henry Kissinger to President Nixon, 'Israeli Nuclear Program (Source: Nixon Library)

Declassified documentation (1, 2, 3 and 4) from the 1968 discussions between Paul Warnke, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, and Israeli ambassador Yitzhak Rabin serves as evidence of the final attempts by the United States to curb Israel's nuclear advancements by leveraging the provision of advanced F-4 Phantom jets. By September 1969, Israel had already acquired four F-4 Phantom aircraft and was subsequently requesting an additional 50 Phantoms, along with necessary equipment and training from the U.S. government. Israeli airpower had been the decisive factor in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and the War of Attrition between Israel and Egypt (which ended in August 1970) undeniably showed that the sophisticated Phantoms were decisive at the time Israel was engaged in combat with the Egyptian artillery along the Suez Canal Zone.

In 1969, high-ranking officials in the Nixon administration considered addressing Israel's nuclear capabilities, but President Nixon decided that the U.S. could accept an undeclared Israeli nuclear arsenal. On December 27, it was

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the US had once more managed to get what it wanted while making sure Israel could unchallengedly cross the threshold....



IMAGE: President Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, meeting in the Oval Office (Source: National Archives and Records Administration)

**National Security Archive publishes key declassified U.S. government documents disclosing the existence of a highly secret policy debate during the first year of the Nixon administration, over the Israeli nuclear weapons program.**

**Israel Crosses the Threshold...**

**Senior Nixon Administration Officials Considered Confronting Israel over Nuclear Weapons in 1969, but President Nixon Declined, Deciding that Washington Could Live with an Undeclared Israeli Bomb, According to Newly Declassified Documents and a Study in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.**

**Washington, DC, April 28, 2006** – Today, the National Security Archive publishes for the first time 30 recently declassified U.S. government documents disclosing the existence of a highly secret policy debate, during the first year of the Nixon administration, over the Israeli nuclear weapons program. Broadly speaking, the debate was over whether it was feasible—either politically or technically—for the Nixon administration to try to prevent Israel from crossing the nuclear threshold, or whether the U.S. should find some “ground rules” which would allow it to live with a nuclear Israel. The documents published by the Archive are the primary sources for an article by Avner Cohen and William Burr, “Israel crosses the threshold,” that appears in the May-June 2006 issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. The article is now available online at the **Bulletin's website**. An edited version of the article will also appear in *The Washington Post's* Sunday “Outlook” section on April 30, 2006.

1969 was a turning point in the U.S.-Israeli nuclear relationship. Israel already had a nuclear device by 1967, but it was not until 1968-1969 that U.S. officials concluded that an Israeli bomb was about to become a physical and political reality. U.S. government officials believed that Israel was reaching a state “whereby all the components for a weapon are at hand, awaiting only final assembly and testing.”

In the first months of the Nixon administration, senior officials such as Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird believed it was important that Washington try to check Israeli nuclear progress for the sake of stability in the Middle East. In April 1969, national security adviser Henry Kissinger issued National Security Study Memorandum (NSSM) 40, requesting the national security bureaucracy to develop options for dealing with the Israeli nuclear problem. A Senior Review Group (SRG), chaired by Henry Kissinger, was formed to deliberate and propose avenues for action to the President. The SRG outlined policy objectives to President Nixon and proposed initiating a probe with Israeli Ambassador Rabin, designed to achieve those objectives. Nixon approved the SRG's proposal for action but declined to use deliveries of advanced F-4 Phantom jets as leverage for the probe. This decision was fateful for the entire exercise.

On July 29, 1969, Ambassador Rabin was summoned by Acting Secretary of State Elliott Richardson and Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard as the first step in the probe. The two officials pressed Rabin on three issues: (1) the meaning of Israel's “non-introduction” pledge; (2) Israel's signature on the NPT; (3) Israel's intentions on the missile issue. Rabin provided no replies and subsequently proposed to leave the whole issue for the meeting between President Nixon and Prime Minister Meir in late September.

On the eve of Meir's visit, the State Department prepared a background paper for the President concluding that “Israel might very well now have a nuclear bomb” and certainly “had the technical ability and material resources to produce weapons-grade uranium for a number of weapons.” No written record of the meeting between President Nixon and Prime Minister Meir on September 26 is available, but it was a key event in the emergence of the 1969 US-Israeli nuclear understanding. Subsequent documents suggest that Meir pledged to maintain nuclear restraint—no test, no declaration, no visibility—and after the meeting, the Nixon White House decided to “stand down” on pressure on Israel.

On October 7, 1969, Ambassador Rabin formally provided his belated answers to the US questions: Israel will not become a nuclear power; Israel will decide on the NPT after its election in November; Israel will not deploy strategic missiles until 1972.

On February 23, 1970, Ambassador Rabin informed Kissinger that, in light of President Nixon's conversation with Meir in September 1969, Israel “has no intention to sign the NPT.”

Subsequently, the White House decided to end the secret annual U.S. visits to the Israeli nuclear facility at Dimona. Lower-level officials were not told of the decision, and as late as May 1970, they were under the impression that the visits could be revived. By 1975, in keeping with the understanding with Israel, the State Department refused to tell Congress that it was certain that Israel had the bomb, even though U.S. intelligence was convinced that it did.

The newly declassified documents are from State Department records and Nixon Presidential Materials at the National Archives, College Park. They represent, however, only a small fraction of a large body of documents on



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## Events in the UK

### The Alternative View Presents Roger

#### Anderton

Date: 4 May 2025

Time: 11:00 - 16:00

Location: The Assembly Rooms, Glastonbury, Somerset, UK

#### “Einstein Wrong and Special Relativity Revisited”



We are told the speed of light cannot be exceeded. What if that is wrong? What if Einstein was wrong and the theory of General Relativity is incorrect? Could that open up a whole new world of possibilities?

In May 2025 The Alternative View returns to Glastonbury where Roger Anderton will be asking those questions and putting forward an exciting new model.

Roger Anderton is from the John Chappell Natural Philosophy Society – a group that was formed on the idea that Einstein's relativity is wrong (especially special relativity is wrong). In relativity there are many paradoxes (such as twin paradox) which are really contradictions; thus the believers in relativity are talking nonsense. In trying to get this information out to the general public we have found our voice has been mostly blocked.

For first time in UK we are presenting publicly the film Einstein Wrong by David de Hilster which has been prevented from being s' film festivals. Physics has been corrup' relativity nonsense



NSSM 40 that remain classified. To elucidate the U.S. government debate over the issue of the Israeli bomb the National Security Archive has filed declassification requests for those key documents.

Declassified documents are available here.

Follow this analysis at the National Security Archive (NSA)

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EINSTEIN WRONG AND SPECIAL RELATIVITY  
REVISITED

SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2025

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS GLASTONBURY

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## The Alternative View Special Event

Date: 28 June 2025

Time: 11:00 - 18:45

Location: The Old Convent, Beeches Green,  
Stroud, GL5 4AD

### "The Undeclared Frequency War on Humanity and the Planet"



On Saturday the 28th June 2025 at the invitation of Project Libertas The Alternative View travels to Gloucestershire for a one day AV Special Event.

We will be bringing together four experienced and knowledgeable speakers who will discuss the current technological assault on the human race and the planet. Among the topics covered will be the rise of AI, 5G, the war on biology, Smart Technology, Geoengineering, Smart Cities, the war on food, full spectrum digital tracking and the weaponization potential of technology sold to us on the promise of an easier and more secure life.

There will be an evening bar for socializing and chat. Come along and have an interesting day out and mix with like-minded people.

+++ Bonus evening crop circle and paranormal presentation by AV's very own Matthew Williams. +++

Event hosted by Gary Fraughen.

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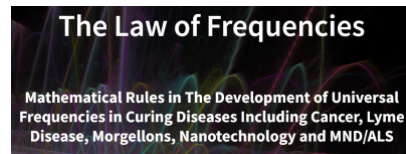
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